

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 7-14, and 20-33 are pending. Applicants confirm the provisional election (made with traverse) to prosecute Invention II directed at claims 27-33. Claims 27 and 28 are amended to correct for informalities cited by the Examiner. No new matter has been introduced.

CLAIM 27 IS ALLOWABLE OVER THE CITED REFERENCES

The Examiner rejected Claims 27 through 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Gregory '567 in view of Chiasson '513.

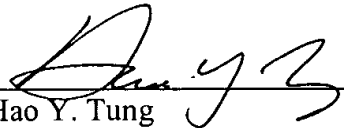
As set forth in the accompanying Rule 131 declaration, the Chiasson '513 reference is not prior art since the present invention was reduced to practice prior to the earliest priority date of the Chiasson '513 reference. Additionally, the Chiasson '513 reference has been abandoned and has no pending claims directed at the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, the Chiasson reference is not prior art under 102(a) or 102(e) and is thus not available as prior art under 103(a). Thus claim 27 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at telephone number (650) 324-7000.

Respectfully submitted,

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